

MEDINA MERCHANTS HEAR CRITICISMS

FARMERS' OPINIONS ASKED AND RECEIVED

Letters Read at Kiwanis Club Starts a Wind That May Blow Some Good to the Community—Writers Hit Bull's Eye.

The Kiwanis club of Medina "saw themselves as others see them" at their weekly luncheon last Friday. They had the distinct privilege of knowing just how the other fellow regards them. Facts concerning themselves and Medina business houses in general had been gathered in the following manner.

A special committee of three had previously sent out a letter in questionnaire form to about one hundred farmers living within driving distance from Medina. Strict confidence was maintained with the farmers as well as the merchants, all names being withheld by the committee.

In the letter mentioned the fact was emphasized that Kiwanis ideals are beyond the selfish, unreasoning, hard-shelled business man, and that the club stands for a bigger and better community in which to live.

The Kiwanis club was highly gratified at the large number of replies and the fact that while they were evidently straight from the shoulder, yet they were evidently written with the purpose of making suggestions which would be for the best interest of both town and surrounding community.

The opinion seemed to be quite general that Medina is a poor market for country produce with the exception of wheat. That it requires only a small amount to flood the market and that the margin between the price paid for such produce and the price at which it is retailed is too large.

One case was referred to where a barrel of vinegar was sold to a grocer for 17c and retailed at 35c a gallon. Attention was called to the fact that even tho the margin of profit taken by the merchant and received by the farmer was the same, the farmer turns his money once a year, while the merchant turns his many times during the same year.

Another custom which brought out frank criticism was that of giving those who have their purchases delivered several times daily and who pay their bills once a week or month, a cigar or bag of candy, when they settle, while those who pay cash and carry their own purchases home are charged the same price and receive no rebate or present.

Some of the writers felt that a more considerate policy toward customers who wish to return purchases which for some reason have proven unsatisfactory, would be appreciated. While it sometimes has opened the way to abuses, yet the policy of some very successful large firms to assume the attitude that the customer is always right has been a large factor in promoting good will, which is fundamental in building up and holding trade.

A merchant who takes back a purchase cheerfully and refunds the price as tho he enjoyed it will hold his patrons. If he takes back the article unwillingly, the customer leaves the store ready to knock whenever he has an opportunity. One knocker can do more damage than a dozen customers can repair.

The universal courtesy and attention shown all patrons by the clerks in a large Cleveland store was given as an example of the treatment which pays the firm big dividends in good will and cash as well.

The plan to have a bargain day once each month seemed to meet with pretty general approval, provided the bargains are exactly as represented and a standard grade of goods. No one seemed to be interested in the idea, if it meant cleaning up the shelves of shop-worn goods, or trash, nor, as one writer said, they did not care to be "skinned" during the remaining days of the month to reimburse the merchant on his loss on bargain day. A real honest-to-goodness bargain day would draw a large crowd of buyers to town.

Opinions were divided on the value of a sales pavilion. Some towns were mentioned where the plan had been tried successfully for a number of years. The majority were in favor of giving it a trial.

Buying of mail order houses had strong champions on both sides. There were some regular buyers who were satisfied, and others who never patronized them, or had tried them and quit because they were not well pleased. One fact was brought out very plainly, namely, that the goods had to be just as represented, or they could be returned at the seller's expense and the money refunded.

In the words of one writer, "the money would be refunded if the goods were returned for one reason, or no reason." Frequently, however, in such cases the amount saved was not commensurate with the trouble involved. This has been one of the big factors contributing to the popularity of the mail order houses. A local merchant who would conduct his business on the same basis would be rewarded by the same popularity. The majority of the writers preferred to spend their money with local merchants where they could see what they are buying, provided the price for the privilege and the accompanying service was reasonable.

There was only one answer to the question of the comfort station. Many seemed to think it would add to the popularity of the town as a trading center, for women and children especially, than any other one thing

UNIFORM TAX RULE PROGRAM WAS BEATEN

Only One of Several Measures Saved from Wreck

Practically the entire taxation program before the legislature, sponsored by the proponents of strict enforcement of the uniform rule, which embraced all the farm organizations of the state, met with defeat in Columbus on Thursday of last week.

Only one measure was salvaged from the wreck and that was the one by Representative Robins of Ross county, which provides for bringing taxpayers before the common pleas court to verify their tax returns, and which was supported almost unanimously.

No effort is expected to be made by the uniform rule adherents to revive their program until supporters of the plan proposed by Gov. Davis' citizens' taxation committee has been given a chance.

It is known that many members who supported the uniform rule plan also will support the governor's program, but whether in sufficient strength to adopt the constitutional amendments contemplated by the program is not known.

Amendments require three-fifths vote. The governor's committee's program which contemplates abrogation of the uniform rule and enactment of an income tax, debt and rate limitations laws, is expected to be ready for consideration this week.

Two uniform rule measures which it may be possible to bring up at some future date are the one by Miller of Coshocton, fixing the status on intangible property, and that by Cape of Columbia, giving taxing authorities the right to examine bank deposits.

FARM LOANS SOON WILL BE AVAILABLE

County Association Getting Ready for Business

Farmers of Medina county will be interested to know of the following facts regarding loans through the Federal Farm Loan banks.

Since its organization on Sept. 5, 1919, over \$40,000 have been loaned to farmers in Medina county. They have received two dividends on their capital stock. Applications from four other farmers have been approved, but their loans were not made due to the fact that the constitutionality of the Farm Loan Act was being acted upon by the Supreme Court of the United States. Now that the Court has made a favorable decision these loans will be made in the near future.

Mr. Ainsworth states that many farmers have been inquiring regarding the matter of making out applications for loans and he feels that within 60 days or so loans will again be made.

The officers of the local association are as follows: President, R. O. Fuller, vice president, S. H. Hoddinott; secretary-treasurer, W. P. Ainsworth.

The local appraisers are: S. H. Hoddinott, J. K. Nold, Fred W. Hostetler.

Application blanks can be obtained at W. P. Ainsworth's office, Gazette building, Medina.

There will be a meeting of the Medina association sometime in April. Watch for the date.

GIRL STARTS ON FOOT FROM CITY TO MEDINA

Angered because of abuse by a domestic with whom her mother had left her while she went shopping, little Cleo Weiss, 9, started to walk to Medina from her home in Cleveland, Monday afternoon, to tell her troubles to Mrs. Fred Martin of Lafayette road, an intimate friend of the Weiss family.

The little girl had her school books some Easter eggs and other trinkets with her and walked about fifteen miles, when she lost her way and stopped at a farm house to be set right. It happened that the farmer was going to drive this way, so he brought the child to Medina with him.

She was left with Mrs. Roy Crites, a daughter of Mrs. Martin, who telephoned to the parents. The father drove to Medina the same night and took her back with him.

they could mention. They were willing to leave the choice of location to the village, provided it be as near as possible to the business center. It must be more, however, than merely a public toilet. A comfortable room where shoppers can sit down and rest and mothers can care for their small children is equally needed.

Closing the stores Wednesday afternoons during other than the three usual months was not deemed advisable, tho some had no objection to closing the entire year on that afternoon. There was very strong objection to the stores being closed Wednesday afternoons and the blacksmith shops Saturday afternoons. The rule should be uniform. All business houses closing the same day of the week.

In his comments on this point one writer said, "Were I a Medina merchant I would try to realize that this is an agricultural community and that one of the fundamental principles of good business is to render service when service is most needed."

While a few letters suggested that the writers would appreciate having one store of a kind kept open each Wednesday afternoon, a number of others said they could not see why merchants and their clerks were not entitled to one half day a week, and that so far as farmers' trade was concerned it would make no difference.

RAY M. BEEDLE TAKES OWN LIFE

WELL-KNOWN FARMER
SHOOTS SELF IN BARN

Believed to be Result of Nervous Breakdown Suffered a Few Years Ago—Leaves Widow and Five Young Children.

The many friends and acquaintances of Ray M. Beedle, well-known Montville farmer, were shocked last Friday morning when the report was circulated among them that he had taken his own life, at his home on what is known as the old Stewer farm, about five miles from Medina village on the South Pike.

Mr. Beedle's rash act was committed in his barn about 8 o'clock in the morning, the weapon used being a 16-gauge shotgun. Death must have been instantaneous, as the shot took effect in the heart.

According to the family, Mr. Beedle suffered a severe nervous breakdown about seven years ago, since which time he had frequently experienced periods of mental depression, and at which times he expressed a feeling of incapacity for family responsibility, particularly with reference to his children.

At other times he was light-hearted and hopeful, and it is said that the day preceding his death he appeared to be in high spirits, having attended a public sale at which he purchased a horse.

Friday morning his wife went to the barn to summon him to the house, and found him dead on the barn floor. Dr. H. P. H. Robinson was called and immediately communicated with Coroner Crum at Lodi. The latter being unable to come to Medina, delegated Dr. Robinson to follow the legal process governing such cases.

The deceased was a son of Charles Beedle of Montville township and a nephew of Elisha Beedle of Medina village. His age was 38 years and two months. Of his immediate family there survive the widow and five children, four sons and one daughter. There also are three sisters, Mrs. Gertrude Harpley and Miss Emma Beedle of Kenmore, and Mrs. Nellie Laughlin of Cleveland.

Funeral services were held from the home Sunday afternoon at 1:30 o'clock, conducted by Rev. Fair of Chippewa Lake, and interment made in the cemetery at Poe.

MAYOR IS MERCILESS TO SHARON MOONSHINERS

First Offense \$500—What Will the Second Be?

Last week was a banner one for the uncovering of illicit stills in the county, Marshal Lucas of Wadsworth going Sheriff Bigelow one the better, Lucas finding three and Bigelow two. As stated in the Sentinel last week the sheriff made his hauls in Hinckley township, both men confessing and each paying a fine of \$300 and costs.

Lucas got his men in Sharon township. They were Mike Lichtenberger and his father, and John Niesinger. The former reside northeast of Sharon, the latter on the Al Griswold farm north of Paxton.

Stills were found on both farms, but with some difficulty, as considerable care had been exercised by the owners in secreting them. On the Niesinger farm was also found about eight gallons of illicit whiskey.

Each of the three men was assessed a fine of \$500 by Mayor Boyer of Wadsworth. The Hinckley law-breakers may gain a crumb of comfort in not having had to deal with the Wadsworth mayor.

IN BUSINESS 60 YEARS S. S. OATMAN SELLS OUT

On Friday of last week S. S. Oatman sold his meat market to Chas. Houghton, the latter taking possession the following day. Mr. Oatman, who is seventy-nine years old, has been in the meat business almost continually for sixty years, and takes rank as the oldest business man in Medina. During this long period of time Mr. Oatman has sold his business a couple of times, to reengage in the same line of business elsewhere, but in each case the change was of short duration. Mr. Oatman buying back his old stand among the people of his home town, than which, he says, there are no better on earth.

Mr. Houghton, likewise, is no stranger to Medina folks, he having been engaged in the meat business here several years ago. He recently returned from an extended sojourn in the South, and says "there is no place as good as Ohio."

SUES RAILROAD COMPANY

Don Boves of Sharon township has filed suit against the A. C. & Y. railroad company for damages in the sum of \$440, sustained in June, 1920.

Plaintiff states that by reason of defendant company's neglect to maintain a fence along its right of way sufficient to prevent cattle from going thereon, one of defendant's trains struck and killed one Holstein heifer valued at \$225; another was injured to the extent of \$175, and a third injured in the sum of \$20.

The cause of suit occurred in Sharon township. J. W. Boves of Cleveland is attorney for plaintiff.

SPELLING CONTESTS EXCITING INTEREST

THREE TRIANGLES
THUS FAR COMPLETE

Decision in West Triangle Held—Judges Have Difficult Problem in Naming Winners—Who Will Be County Chairman?

Whether foreign immigration should be prohibited for a period of five years was the question debated in the various high schools of the county on Friday evening of last week and Tuesday evening of this week.

In the north triangle, composed of Liverpool, York and Hinckley, Liverpool won two of the debates and Hinckley one. Liverpool will therefore represent this triangle in the final contest for county championship.

In the south triangle, composed of Seville, Leroy and Lodi, Leroy won two of the debates and Lodi one. Leroy will accordingly represent this triangle in the final contest.

In the west triangle, composed of Homer, Spencer and Chatham, no definite announcement of decision can be given, as each school won the affirmative side of the question by two to one decision of judges. Whether score sheets of judges shall be summarized to reach a decision or whether new debates shall be scheduled for these schools is as yet undecided. The local superintendents in consultation with County Supt. Uery have the matter under consideration and have as yet not reached a definite decision.

It was announced by the County Superintendent that a new triangle will be formed within a few days for further elimination toward county championship. In the meantime arrangements will be made for choosing a winner in the west triangle.

Judges for these debates were as follows: At York: Co. Supt. G. U. Baumgartner of Wooster; Dist. Supt. M. M. Henderson of Wooster; Supt. L. A. Elssesser of Litchfield.

At Hinckley: Supt. W. E. Conkle of Medina; Supt. O. K. Lehman of Granger; Instructor John Hanson of Granger.

At Liverpool: D. C. Babcock of Medina; Instructor Wallace McCull of Medina; Supt. E. C. Yost of Burbank.

At Seville: Supt. R. F. McMullen of Polk; two students of Wooster college.

At Leroy: Supt. E. R. Gabler of Bittman; Supt. A. W. Elliott of Wadsworth; Dist. Supt. Guy Finch of Ashland.

At Lodi: Supt. E. G. Mason, of Congress; R. H. Halderman, County Farm Bureau, Medina; Supt. E. S. Kerr of Wellington.

At Chatham: Prin. E. N. Drake of Brunswick; Prin. Roy Wagner of Medina; Supt. R. A. Miksch of Copley.

At Spencer: Supt. L. A. Elssesser of Litchfield; Prin. Britto F. Stone of Litchfield; Prin. A. W. Shields of Wellington.

At Homerville: Supt. R. C. Yost of Burbank; Supt. A. D. Law of Sullivan; Supt. F. L. Black of West Salem.

RELEASED IN CITY, BACK TO MEDINA JAIL

W. F. Yost, arrested in Lodi several weeks ago and later bound over to the grand jury on a charge of burglary and larceny, is back in the county jail again.

As Yost's alleged crime consisted of breaking into a room in Taylor Inn at Lodi and carrying away about two hundred quarts of whiskey which Frank Rairdin, proprietor of the Inn, claimed as his property, Yost's case also properly fell into jurisdiction of the Federal court, and he was removed to the county jail in Cleveland.

Yost's attorneys recently had him legally declared a bankrupt. As his wife and children are in destitute circumstances, it appears that the Federal court decided to release him rather than have both Yost and his family become public charges. The city authorities notified Sheriff Bigelow of the decision, and Deputy Hange was sent to bring Yost back to this county to answer to the charge against him here.

Rumors are current in local court circles that Yost may have to face other charges later on of even a more serious nature than that with which he is now charged.

NUT & BOLT COMPANY CASE POSTPONED AGAIN

The affairs of the Safety Nut & Bolt Co., which was undergoing an official airing in Cleveland last week, has been halted again, for what reason is not publicly known. Prosecuting Attorney J. A. Seymour, who is representing the interests of Medina county investors in the company, was at the hearing in Cleveland last Wednesday, and states that the case is apparently no further advanced now than it has been at any time, which means that it has practically made no advance at all.

According to Mr. Seymour, the case is scheduled to come up again this week. There are many men and women, too, in Medina county who put good money into this concern and who will be glad to have something done in the matter of straightening out the affairs of the company as soon as possible.

FARMERS NAME NEW ELEVATOR COMPANY

Elect Officers and Begin Stock Sale Campaign

At a special meeting of the representatives of the four townships of Medina, Montville, York and Lafayette, held at the Farm Bureau office, Tuesday afternoon of this week, the name of The Medina Elevator Company was adopted for the new organization recently formed for the establishment of a new co-operative elevator in Medina.

Mr. E. W. Nettleton occupied the chair. The articles of incorporation were read and approved. The company expects to complete its organization by July 1. Active campaign for solicitation of stock will commence immediately. Terms to be granted the prospective stock buyer: 20 per cent. down, 30 per cent. payable July 1, and 50 per cent. payable October 1. The par value of the shares was fixed at \$100 each and the maximum amount held by any one man to be 10 shares as specified in the general code of Ohio.

The following temporary officers were elected to hold office during the organization of the company. President, E. W. Nettleton, Medina township; Guy D. Moore, vice president, York township; Secy-Treas., Walter R. Clark, Montville township. These men will hold office until the first meeting of the stockholders of the company.

A committee of five to draft up the constitution and by-laws will be appointed by the chairman at an early date.

The meeting was large and enthusiastically attended. Mr. Earley made a report on the elevator conditions in the state. Seven new elevators similar in organization to Medina Elevator have been organized in this state since March 15. Two of these are in our neighboring counties, one at Strongsville, across the line in Cuyahoga county, and one at Ghent, just over the line in Summit county.

Chairmen of the campaigns in each township were elected: D. W. Tinstman, Montville; Clayton Wiles, Lafayette; Chas. Nettleton, York, and E. W. Nettleton, Medina. Active solicitation will commence at once and the bulk of subscriptions will be finished before April 1.

WADSWORTH WOMAN MEETS TRAGIC DEATH

Mrs. Mary Kreider Fatally Burned in Home at Hotel.

Hotel Kreider, Wadsworth, was the scene of a tragic occurrence on Wednesday of last week, when Mrs. Mary Kreider, wife of J. O. Kreider, proprietor of the hotel, was burned so badly that she died a few hours later. The accident was the result of a piece of burning fire wood falling from the grate and igniting the aged lady's clothing. Mrs. Kreider was more than eighty years of age.

Mrs. Kreider had been in feeble health for some time and the day of the accident she was sitting up for the first time in many days, her position being directly in front of the grate. Mr. Kreider had left her only a few moments before and when he returned her clothing was in flames. Before the fire could be extinguished Mrs. Kreider's clothing was nearly consumed from her body.

For more than a quarter of a century Mrs. Kreider presided over the dining room of the hotel and was known to commercial travelers far and near.

FALLEN HERO'S BODY ARRIVES AT HOME TOWN

The body of Max Roshon, who was instantly killed at the battle of Cantigny, France, May 29, 1918, arrived at the home of his father, Adelbert Roshon, in Wadsworth, on Thursday. Funeral service will be held on Saturday and the body placed in the Wadsworth mausoleum.

Max Roshon had many relatives and friends in and around Medina, altho at the time of his enlistment he was residing in Kansas. He was a member of the Machine Gun Co., 16th Infantry, and enlisted in June, 1917.

SENATE PASSES BREAD AND ICE CREAM BILLS

The Ohio senate Tuesday passed a bill by Senator George Kryder of Henry county to license all ice cream manufacturers and to fix a legal standard for ice cream which requires that all cream placed on the market shall contain not less than 8 per cent. in weight of milk fat.

The original bill provided a standard of 12 per cent. milk fat as advocated by milk producers of the state.

The senate also passed the Brand bill fixing the standard of a loaf of bread at one pound, 60 per cent. of which shall be moisture free solids. Weight of loaf shall be stamped on wrapper or the loaf.

FINED \$20 AND COSTS

Andy Fudor, who about once in so often runs up against the bleak wall of the law, did so again last Sunday afternoon. Well-filled with liquor, Fudor, in company with some friends, drove a horse around the square for an hour or more as fast as the animal could go, using the whip generously when the animal slackened its pace. Deputy Sheriff Hange placed Fudor under arrest and locked him up, and on Monday Justice of Peace W. P. Ainsworth imposed a fine on him for \$20 and costs, together with a ten-day jail sentence, the latter being suspended.

BARGAIN DAYS BY MEDINA MERCHANTS

TO BEGIN ON FIRST
MONDAY IN APRIL

Plan Will Be Continued Monthly for Six Months, and if it Proves Successful, Will Be Continued Permanently.

Beginning the first Monday in May, a majority of the business men of Medina are going to conduct a series of "bargain days" for a period of six months, the date of each the first Monday of each month.

This action was definitely decided upon at a meeting of business men held at the Winyah club Monday night, at which time an organization was effected, to be known as the Medina Advertising club, and officers elected as follows:

Gail Abbot, president; A. S. Whitney, vice president; H. Y. Ziegler, secretary; W. J. Wall, treasurer. The executive committee consists of the above named officers and W. E. Griesinger and Chas. Wertz.

On the sales days each merchant member of the organization agrees to offer one or two actual bargains, the price to be as near to actual cost as possible, and the articles to be new and staple goods—not shop-worn and otherwise unsalable merchandise.

Advertisements of the "bargains" offered by the various merchants will be carried in the local newspapers, a suitable time in advance of sale day, and the merchants are pledged to carry out religiously the letter and spirit of the advertisements.

As has been stated, the plan will be given a trial for six months. If at the end of that time it shall have been successful and there is manifested a desire by the public to continue it, the plan will be maintained permanently.

While new to Medina, a monthly bargain day has been conducted with marked success in some villages, particularly in Neosho, Missouri, which town was the first to try out the idea, and which, because of its remarkable success, has achieved wide fame.

Medina merchants have not adopted the Neosho plan in its entirety, but only the main features. However, if the bargain day in Medina shall find a hearty welcome, it is probable that the other attractive features will be embraced in the local plan, when it is believed the village on the first Monday of each month will become a Mecca, the name which it carried in its early days.

OMINOUS RUMOR GIVES JOLT TO STOCKHOLDERS

Medina stockholders in the Spencer Metal Products Co., were given a jolt this week when a report became current that the company's latest plan to satisfy the numerous creditors had fallen through and that the plant will be closed.

That the company had been in a more or less precarious financial position for some time past has been general knowledge, but it was not until Feb. 23, at a meeting of the company's creditors, held in Cleveland, that the real condition became known. Here it developed that the company had liabilities approximating \$300,000.

At this meeting Mr. Bouthinon, president of the Spencer Metal Products Co., stated that the company had received orders approximating \$70,000 in the 30 days previous and a plan was evolved whereby the company would be allowed to continue in operation, under supervision of a creditors' committee. It was hoped that the notes issued to cover present indebtedness could be taken up before the end of the year. Evidently this plan was not acceptable to all the company's creditors, for on Tuesday, March 15, another meeting was held at which time the creditors' committee was empowered to throw the company into bankruptcy or ask for a receiver, if they saw fit. That they saw no other way out of a bad situation lends credence to the report current this week that the plant will be closed.

Mr. Bouthinon, when asked Wednesday concerning the correctness of the report that the company's plant would be closed, said, "I have no statement to make, one way or another."

The Spencer Metal Products Co., was shut down for a period in January, opened later with a force of 45 men, which number has been augmented from time to time until they are now employing 75 men.

COMMUNITY CONCERT HAS BEEN POSTPONED

Owing to the sudden illness of Director John Beck, who was stricken with mumps on Wednesday of this week, the Community concert, which was to have been given next Tuesday evening at the Methodist church, has been postponed.

Announcement of the change of date will be given from the pulpits of the various churches on Sunday.

FARM HELP SITUATION

The farm help situation this year has experienced a radical change from that of last year. The demand for help is about the same, but at a lower figure than the preceding year.

Many men have been turned away from the Farm Bureau office because of inability to place them on the farm. Due to the demand, the Farm Bureau office is inaugurating a help exchange bureau. All farmers who wish help should get in touch with the office, stating their requirements and conditions. In turn all men desiring work on the farm, call or notify the Farm Bureau office.